THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. At present no such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) Does not arise.

Criteria for APEX fares

2868. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines offers APEX Fares on certain sectors;

(b) the criteria for selecting routes; and

(c) the reasons for discriminating against Delhi-Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad-Vizag Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The criteria considered while deciding the sectors for introduction of APEX fares are market considerations such as market size and its potential, capacity deployment, fares offered by the competitors, seasonality etc.

While Apex fares are available on Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam sector, these have not been introduced on Delhi-Visakhapatnam sector, keeping in view the above criteria.

New convention and exhibition centre at Mumbai

2869. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the 68th Board meeting of Airports Authority of India, held on 14th July, 2003 it was decided to form a Public Limited Company for setting up of international level Convention and Exhibition Centre at Mumbai Airport; and

(b) if so, the details and the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An International Convention Centre is proposed to be set up at Mumbai by a Joint Venture Company with participation by five star hoteliers of Mumbai and Airports Authority of India. The proposal is in the context of the annoucement in the Budget Speech for the year 2003-04 wherein the Government propose to provide a major thrust to infrastructure through innovative funding mechanisms. The comprehensive initiative will *inter alia* include two global standard international convention centres.

Task force on infrastructure

2870. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether upgradation of major metro airports in India to world class standards was one of the mandates given by the Task Force on Infrastructure, set up by the Prime Minister in 1998; and

(b) if so, the details of progress made by the Ministry of Civil Aviation from 1998 till date in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Task Force on Infrastructure on 9.12.1998 recommended that airports at Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore be corporatised. Based on this recommendation, Government of India in January, 1999 decided to corporatise the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, besides construction of Greenfield Airport at Bangalore. Considering the compIexities involved in corporatisation, the Task Force on 3.6.1999 approved the leasing route. Government of India in January, 2000 approved restructuring of airports of Airports Authority of India through long term leasing route as and when found suitable. The airports at Delhi, Mumbai Kolkota and Chennai were taken up for this exercise at the first instance. The Financial Consultant and Legal Consultant for restructuring exercise were appointed in March, 2000 and March, 2001 respectively. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted to advise and monitor the entire exercise. The IMG met periodically to discuss and deliberate on various strategic issues. Pre-lnvestment Meets were held in New Delhi and London in April, 2002 to formally introduce the long term lease process. The Meet was attended by many Airport Operators, Financial Companies etc. An Amendment Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 30.11.2000 for